

Attorney Docket No.: PENN-0583
Inventors: Lee and Doms
Serial No.: 09/297,877
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Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

I. Objection to the Specification

The specification has been objected to as not containing an abstract on a separate sheet as required. Applicants are providing herewith the abstract from the published PCT application of which this was the U.S. national Stage on a separate sheet. Withdrawal of this objection is therefore respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claim Under 35 U.S.C. 112, First Paragraph

The rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention, has been maintained. The Examiner suggests that the specification does not disclose a method of diagnosing Alzheimer's disease in a patient comprising detecting in the patient an agent that increases processing of APP into β -amyloid peptides. The Examiner acknowledges that the specification teaches the use of the NT2N system to study APP processing and teaches that agents which modulate APP processing by increasing or

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decreasing APP- β and A- β 42 can be identified by determining their effect on levels of APP- β and A- β 42 produced by β - and γ -secretases in the endoplasmic reticulum of neuronal cells. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants have canceled claim 2 and added new claim 4. This new claim specifies a method of inhibiting amyloid precursor protein processing with an agent that is identified as capable of decreasing processing of this protein into amyloid β peptides. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification as filed but in particular at page 9, lines 14-28. Once such an agent is identified by as claimed, it would be within the skill of one in the art to develop a method of inhibiting amyloid precursor protein processing as claimed. Accordingly, the added claim is enabled by the teachings of the specification as filed. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing comprises a full and complete response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly,

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favorable reconsideration and subsequent allowance of the pending claim is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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DATE: August 8, 2002

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